

wherein said at least one pass is along a longitudinal axis of said preform, during which the relative positions of said injector means and said heating means are adjusted with respect to each other, so that said silica is deposited in said heated area regardless of the position of said heating means, and

wherein said heating means is a plasma torch.

2. (Currently Amended) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein said adjustment is carried out between each of said at least one pass and the next.

3. (Previously Amended) The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said plasma torch has a main axis in a plane, said injector means has a main axis in a plane, wherein a fixed angle is defined by the intersection of said plane of said plasma torch and said plane of said injector means, and said injector means and said plasma torch move relative to each other, within their respective planes, in a direction parallel to said longitudinal axis of said preform.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn).

5. (Canceled).